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ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1971

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Acting Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Clare, in the County of West Suffolk, for the year ended 31st December, 1971

Telephone:- Clare 421
and
Bury St. Edmunds 63141

Public Health Department,
Severals House,
Newmarket.

30th May, 1972.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Clare Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I again have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1971. The report is made in the form as suggested by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The estimated population of the District as at 30th June was 9,840, showing a slight diminution in the population. The live birth rate as recorded of 16.1 which after correction for the composition of the population produces a rate of 18.0 per thousand of the estimated population. This compares very favourably with the rate of 16.0 for England and Wales. The crude death rate of 10.7 after making adjustments for the age and sex constitution of the community shows a death rate of 9.0. A most favourable rate when contrasted with that for England and Wales of 11.6. The low infant death rate of 6 per thousand total live births again is a very low one when compared with that of 18 for England and Wales. It is interesting to note that the total infant death rate occurred within four weeks of independent existence.

The number of zymotic diseases notified was again low and totalled 70, all of which were accounted for by measles and scarlet fever.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Black are most assiduous in maintaining at a very high level the standard of sanitation throughout the rural area and I am obliged particularly to Mr. Black for his helpful and valuable co-operation.

Within the next two years fundamental changes are envisaged within local government and this will have the net result of creating larger areas, whilst at the same time there would not appear to be any requirement to appoint the Statutory Officers, e.g. the Medical Officer of Health or the Public Health Inspector. For many generations the custodians of the public health have made a positive contribution to the social wellbeing of every inhabitant of the area, but it would appear now that this service, which will require to be continued, will be made available to the new authorities through the activities of Community Physicians, who will not be employed in the same sphere as Medical Officers of Health or Public Health Inspectors.

The work in collecting the notifications of sanitary incidents within the area has been collated by Mrs. C.A. Blyth, Clerk to several Rural District Public Health Offices. The work of the Public Health Department, which is described throughout this report, can only be successfully carried out with the full co-operation of all members of staff. I should like everyone to know that I am very mindful of the strain that the impending mergers and organisational changes taking place will have on their outlook towards local government, but I am sure from the good service they have given in the past that the transition from the old to the new will be a smooth and happy one.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D.A. McCRACKEN

Acting Medical Officer of Health

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

D.A. McCracken, C.St.J., M.D., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. H.A. Smith, M.I.P.H.E., F.I.A.S., M.R.S.H.,
who also holds the office of Engineer and Surveyor

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. W.J. Black, M.A.P.H.I.,
who also serves as Building Inspector

MEAT INSPECTION

A Senior Meat Inspector together with seven 'authorised officers' are appointed to carry out meat inspection duties at the Little Wratting Abattoir.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets throughout the report relate to the previous year).

Area of the District	(49,360 acres)	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	(24)	24
Rateable Value	(£260,150)	£234,995
Sum represented by new penny rate	(£1,043)	£2,390
Number of dwellings	(3761)	3844
Population Census 1961	8815	-
Population Registrar's Estimate	(June 1970 10,600)	June 1971 9,840

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(as supplied by the General Register Office)

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	76	71	147
Illegitimate	6	5	11
Total	82	76	158

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	16.1
Corrected birth rate (Comp. factor 1.12)	18.0
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	16.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	7

STILL BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	3	-	3

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	19
" " " " " " " " (Eng. & Wales)	12

TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	79	71	150
Illegitimate	6	5	11
Total	85	76	161

DEATHS	Male	Female	Total
	59	46	105

Death rate per 1,000 population	10.7
Corrected death rate (Comp. factor .84)	9.0
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	11.6

INFANT MORTALITY - Deaths of infants under one year of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	1	1

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	6
" " " " " " " " (England & Wales)	18
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legit. live births	7
Illegitimate " " " " illegit. " "	-

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	6

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	6

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ..	25

RATES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Adjusted birth rates	16.5	20.4	20.2	20.4	18.1	17.4	14.3	18.0
Adjusted death rates	10.4	11.2	8.2	9.6	8.6	9.1	10.9	9.0

CAUSES OF DEATH

Diseases	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1
Other malignant neoplasms	3	2
Other diseases of nervous system	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	14	5
Other forms of heart disease	5	9
Cerebrovascular disease	7	6
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	3
Pneumonia	7	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
Peptic ulcer	1	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	-
Cirrhosis of liver	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	2	1
Other diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	2
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	1	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	1
All other external causes	-	1
	59	46
1970	68	70

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

	Male	Female	Total
Measles	39	29	68
Scarlet Fever	2	-	2
	41	29	70

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
1. Cases at commencement 1971	2	3	-	1	6
2. First notified during 1971	-	-	-	-	-
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by transfers	-	-	-	-	-
5. Cases removed from Register	-	-	-	-	-
6. Remaining at 31.12.71	2	3	-	1	6

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY YOUR SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. WATER SUPPLY

Mains water is supplied to your area by The West Suffolk Water Board. The water has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The number of standpipe supplies is relatively small and it is estimated that 95 per cent of houses have mains water.

B. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year, your Clare disposal works extension, to serve a population of 4,500 was completed and foul water sewers were laid for the village of Barnardiston - sewage from which is pumped to your Kedington disposal works.

Work commenced in laying sewer pipes for the village of Stansfield and hamlets of Clopton and Wickham Street; sewage will be pumped to the existing Wickhambrook works.

At the time of writing this, agreement has been reached to proceed to tender for village sewerage schemes at Hawkedon, Denston, Stradishall, Depden and Little Wratting. Upon completion of these schemes, all villages in your area will have main drainage.

C. CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

An agreement with the Haverhill U.D.C. has permitted the bulk of your refuse to be accepted at their new pulverisation plant. Your old quarry at Kedington is still open for some tipping and for district residents to dump their rubbish also. A tip at Denston is in use receiving refuse from that part of your area but it is rapidly filling up and could be soiled over and returned to agriculture next year.

A refuse kerbside bin collection takes place weekly. Some trade refuse is collected in Clare and a waste paper collection continues throughout the area.

Septic tanks on Council house sites where main drainage is not available, are cleared by Contractors, as are similar tanks at private dwellings under a subsidised clearance scheme.

D. HOUSING

A considerable number of houses continue to be improved with and without grant aid. Housing complaints of lack of amenities, repairs and such have been investigated, and owners co-operation in remedying defects has been good. No statutory notices under the Public Health or Housing Acts have been served.

New dwellings continue to be built, largely in estate formation by private enterprise, whilst the Council are erecting two bedroomed bungalows for letting as need arises in small numbers and in several villages.

There are no Common Lodging houses in the area.

A small number of individual caravans are controlled by an annual Planning Consent. There are no site licenses in operation.

One or two gipsy caravans arrived in your area for a few days at irregular intervals only.

E. PET SHOPS

There are none in the area.

ANIMAL BOARDING KENNELS

Only one is registered

NOISE ABATEMENT

No statutory action was called for

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

No formal action was necessary

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

The number of premises registered under the Act is 32. Contraventions in relation to cleanliness, temperature and such were remedied.

PETROLEUM SPIRIT STORAGE

There are 70 licensed petrol storage installations in your area.

F. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspections reveal that a reasonably good standard of hygiene is being maintained at premises offering food for sale and also in mobile vehicles. Any faults lie in the absence of efficient washing facilities and identification of vans.

There is no ice cream manufactured in the area and shops selling pre-packed ice cream are registered to do so.

The one licensed slaughterhouse in your area is at The Little Wratting Abattoir where extensive enlargements are in progress. The premises are also licensed to carry on the process of blood drying, fat melting, rendering and gut scraping.

A licensed knackers yard exists at Chilton, near Clare. No animals are slaughtered on these premises.

Licensed slaughtermen number 43.

362, 272 pigs were killed and inspected in the whole area during the year. 876 whole carcases were condemned for disease other than tuberculosis. About 228 tons of meat and offal was unfit for human food.

There are no poultry processing premises in the area.

G. FACTORIES ACT 1961

Inspections

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	20	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	10	7	2	-
Total	40	28	3	-

2. Cases in which defects were found . 5

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

No. of Outworkers :-

Making of wearing apparel	- 1
Manufacturing Drapery	- 4
Firework base assembly	- 11
Costume Jewellery	- 5